

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 DAMASC 05486 181233Z

42

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 ORM-02 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EUR-12 PPT-01 SCS-03 SCA-01 DHA-02

VO-03 SSM-03 A-01 OPR-02 OC-06 CCO-00 SY-05 AID-05

/117 W

----- 033921

R 181206Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9180

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 5486

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SY, LE

SUBJECT: FURTHER INFORMATION ON BORDER RESTRICTIONS

REF: DAMASCUS 5413

1. MUSLIM AUH DRIVER TOLD EMBOFF AUGUST 17 THAT HE ENTERED SYRIA SAME DAY BY HAVING HIS NAME ADDED TO LIST DRAWN UP AT ZAHLE GOVERNORATE. NO SEPARATE PERMIT WAS ISSUED. HE SAID OTHER NAMES ON LIST ALL APPEARED TO BE CHRISTIAN.

2. DRIVER'S ASSERTION SUPPORTED BY EVIDENCE FROM EMBASSY CONSULAR SECTION, WHICH REPORTED SOME LEBANESE IV APPLICANTS HAVE MANAGED TO ENTER SYRIA SINCE RESTRICTIONS IMPOSED ON STRENGTH OF PERMITS ISSUED BY GOVERNOR OF ZAHLE. AS FAR AS CAN BE DETERMINED, IV APPLICANTS HAVE ALL BEEN CHRISTIAN.

3. BRITISH MILATT TOLD AT BORDER AUGUST 17 THAT INDIVIDUALS WHO PRESENT DIPLOMATIC IDENTITY CARD SHOWING THEY RESIDENT IN EITHER LEBANON OR SYRIA WILL BE PERMITTED  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 DAMASC 05486 181233Z

TO ENTER SYRIA WITHOUT FURTHER DOCUMENTATION. HE

ADDED THAT TWO AMCITS ON REGULAR PASSPORTS TOLD HIM AT BORDER THEY HAD BEEN THERE FOR PAST TWO DAYS AND THAT CABLE FROM DAMASCUS MFA WOULD BE REQUIRED TO FACILITATE THEIR ENTRY. (AMBASSADOR, WHO ASKED NEW MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS ADI FOR CLARIFICATION OF BORDER REGULATIONS AT MEETING 1100L AUGUST 18, DREW BLANK. ADI SEEMED GENUINELY PERPLEXED BY WHOLE ISSUE AND FINALLY CONFESSED HE DID NOT KNOW WHAT REGULATIONS BEING IMPLEMENTED BY SARG BUT WOULD ADVISE ASAP.)

4. RELIABLE LOCAL PALESTINIAN TOLD US PALESTINIANS, AS WELL AS SYRIANS AND LEBANESE, WHOSE IDENTITY CARDS STATE THEY BORN IN PALESTINE BEING REFUSED PERMITS TO DEPART SYRIA FOR LEBANON.

5. COMMENT: CONFUSION SURROUNDING TRAVEL OF FOREIGNERS BETWEEN SYRIA AND LEBANON NOT YET CLARIFIED BY SENIOR SARG OFFICIALS. BRITISH MILATT'S UNEVENTFUL CROSSING PARTIALLY SUBSTANTIATES HIS ASSERTION THAT RESIDENT DIPLOMATS WILL BE ABLE TO MOVE ACROSS BORDERS. BASED UPON AVAILABLE EVIDENCE, CHRISTIANS FIND IT EASIER TO ENTER SYRIA THAN DO MUSLIMS. RESTRICTIONS REGARDING PALESTINIANS SUGGEST THEIR TRAVEL WILL BE STRICTLY REGULATED.  
MURPHY

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** TRAVEL CONTROLS, BORDER CONTROLS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 18 AUG 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ElyME  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976DAMASC05486  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760316-1150  
**From:** DAMASCUS  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760844/aaaabllm.tel  
**Line Count:** 87  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 DAMASCUS 5413  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ElyME  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 16 JUN 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <16 JUN 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <20 OCT 2004 by ElyME>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** FURTHER INFORMATION ON BORDER RESTRICTIONS  
**TAGS:** PFOR, PBOR, SY, LE  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006